



Summer is here! WCSI is excited to embrace warm days, bright sunshine, and the vibrant energy of the season. It's the perfect time for outdoor adventures like hiking, swimming, barbecuing, and relaxing in the sun. Summer brings a sense of joy and freedom, with lush greenery, blooming gardens, and the buzz of life all around.



*WCSI has obtained and retains a photo release for every individual featured in our newsletter.





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- Disability Pride Month
- Out and About
- Upcoming Events
- Employee Spotlight
- Employment Opportunities
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JULY IS DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH



July has held great significance in the history of disability rights since President George H.W. Bush enacted the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in 1990. This groundbreaking legislation outlawed discrimination against individuals with disabilities, and in July of that same year, the inaugural Disability Pride Day took place in Boston.

Since then, July has been recognized as Disability Pride Month, featuring parades and events nationwide to commemorate the anniversary of this pivotal law. Although Disability Pride Month has not yet been officially recognized as a national holiday, in 2015, New York Mayor Bill de Blasio declared July Disability Pride Month in celebration of the ADA's 25th anniversary.

Disability Pride Month serves as a crucial opportunity to honor the diversity and individuality of every person within the disability community and to celebrate those who live with disabilities.

WCSI MISSION STATEMENT

We are dedicated to working in partnership with all individuals impacted by Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Behavioral Health Challenges through their connection to essential services, personal empowerment, and promotion of wellness.

WCSI VISION STATEMENT

WCSI will be the leader in integrating people into the community through Recovery, Wellness, and Positive Approaches to live a full and renewed life.

WCSI CORE VALUES

COMMITTMENNT
QUALITY
INTEGRITY
ACCOUNTABILITY
RESPECT



WHO WE ARE: SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR 30 YEARS!

Established in 1994, WCSI provides a range of Behavioral Health,
Intellectual and Developmental
Disability, and Early Intervention
services to the residents of
Westmoreland County.

WCSI is dedicated to having a positive impact on the community it is so fortunate to serve. Our philosophy is straightforward: We provide services to any eligible individual or family, doing everything possible to ensure the best possible outcomes.

This means that our involvement in the community is not defined only by funded services but rather by a holistic response to individual, family, and community needs.

We meet you where you are:
In any stage of your life.
In your home or in the community.

We care about your whole person, and we are committed to connecting you with the resources to enable you to thrive in all aspects of your life. Our services are individualized according to your identified needs and preferences.

DISABILITY PRIDE FLAG



What each color of the flag represents:

RED: physical disabilities

BLUE: mental illness

- BLACK: represents the disabled people who have lost their lives due not only to their illness, but also to negligence, suicide and eugenics.
 - YELLOW: cognitive and intellectual disabilities
 - WHITE: invisible and undiagnosed disabilities.
 - GREEN: sensory perception disabilities

Disability Pride Month is an important opportunity to raise visibility for people with disabilities and to work towards a more inclusive and accessible society. It is a time to recognize their strengths, celebrate their diversity, and advocate for their rights.





WCSI's Community Impact: A Look Back at last three months of 2025!

WCSI has been very busy actively connecting and engaging with the community through a variety of events for all ages!
From job fairs and health fairs to family-friendly celebrations, and educational events, WCSI has certainly been out and about!









Community Event





PLRY, LERRN, CONNECT SERIES RT GHRL

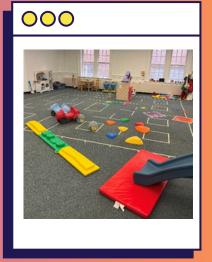
Danielle O'Neill, Service Coordinator Lead from WCSI's Early Intervention
Department, joined the Play, Learn, Connect series at the Greensburg
Hempfield Library every Monday from March 3rd to March 31st, 2025. This
grant-funded series focused on parents playing with their children to enhance
learning and strengthen bonds. Each week featured community resource
professionals in Child Development, Nutrition, Speech, and Movement.













Community Event



Spring Spectacular!

The 4th Annual Spring Spectacular, presented by Ray of Hope, was held on Saturday, April 5, at the Westmoreland Fairgrounds. Community registration quickly maxed out at 1,000 participants! Although rainy weather brought attendance down to about half, the energy remained high.

WCSI was proudly represented by Targeted Case
Manager Lindsey Lauffer and Staff Development
Specialist Becky Carns. Throughout the day, Lindsey
and Becky connected with numerous community
members, sharing information about WCSI's services
and resources. They also distributed a variety of WCSI
branded items, helping to boost visibility and strengthen
community awareness of our mission.

Despite the weather, it was a fantastic day full of meaningful conversations, community spirit, and plenty of smiles!

OUT AND ABOUT!







WCCC GRAD BASH!

On Monday, April 7th, and Tuesday, April 8th, Human Resources Supervisor Ellie Penatzer, Supports Coordinator Supervisor Dawn Brown, and Early Intervention Service Coordinator Lead, Georgiann Beske, represented WCSI at WCCC's Grad Bash. The event provided a platform for them to share WCSI's Mission Statement with attendees and engage with upcoming graduates and even participants. They educated these individuals about the job opportunities available at WCSI. The prize wheel was particularly popular, serving as an excellent conversation starter. Students enjoyed spinning the wheel for a chance to win WCSI swag, snacks, or a \$25 gift card.



Community Job Fair



Joh Fair at Live! Casino

ON TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2025, STEPHANY SLAUGHTER, HUMAN RESOURCES RECRUITMENT AND OUTREACH ASSISTANT, AND ABBY SHAFFER, TARGETED CASE MANAGER, PROUDLY REPRESENTED WCSI AT AN EXCITING COMMUNITY JOB FAIR HOSTED AT LIVE! CASINO. THE EVENT WAS A GREAT PLATFORM FOR THEM TO SHARE WCSI'S INSPIRING MISSION STATEMENT AND PROVIDE ATTENDEES WITH INSIGHTFUL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CURRENT JOB OPENINGS, EXCEPTIONAL BENEFITS, AND THE NUMEROUS PERKS OF JOINING THIS DEDICATED AGENCY. THEY ALSO TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND ENLIGHTENED THEM ABOUT THE WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES WCSI OFFERS. THE PRIZE WHEEL PROVED TO BE A CROWD FAVORITE AND SPARKED MANY LIVELY CONVERSATIONS! OVERALL, THE EVENT WAS A RESOUNDING SUCCESS, OFFERING VALUABLE INSIGHTS AND CREATING A POSITIVE IMPACT FOR EVERYONE INVOLVED.

Community Event

Easter Egg Hunt

On Monday, April 14th, the Early Intervention Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC) organized an Easter Egg Hunt at Twin Lakes Park. Children from Early Intervention, aged from birth to five, participated in this joyful event. Present were WCSI's Danielle O'Neill, EISC Lead, and Lauren Hussar, EISC Admin Lead. Parent To Parent and the United Way were also there to provide information and distribute books to families. Twenty-five children joined in on the fun, decorated Easter bags, enjoyed lunch, and met the Easter Bunny for photos. After the egg hunt, they received candy and prizes. It was a wonderful day for our EI families.





Community Event

Carelon Event

Amanda Zanolli and Rebecca Johns attended the Carelon Health of PA 2025 Forum on 4/23/25. They represented WCSI and interacted with other providers to seek resources that would help benefit clients.

TCMs and Peers were in attendance as well this year with their clients for the event. The WCSI staff in attendance were Lisa Fyke, Zack Hough, Katlyn Niehenke, Carly Sotdorus, Veronica Cornejo, Lindsey Lauffer, Rachel Rhoades, Sarah Junod, Christine Clevenger, and April Fabery.

Special thanks to Jen Myers for linking clients in the van to the event today!

All involved had a great time! Zack's client won the award for Westmoreland County this year!









Community Job Fair and Community Event

Alle- Kiski Job Faic!



On Thursday, April 17, 2025, Krystal Spino, Human Resources Director, and Alyssa Sawl, Targeted Case Manager Supervisor, proudly represented WCSI at an exciting community job fair hosted at Lower Burrell VFW. The event was a great platform for them to share WCSI's inspiring Mission Statement and provide attendees with insightful information about the current job openings, exceptional benefits, and the numerous perks of joining this dedicated agency. They also took the opportunity to engage with community members and enlightened them about the wide range of services WCSI offers.

Overall, the event was a success, offering valuable insights and creating a positive impact for everyone involved.



Preschool Expo!

Georgiann Beske, Early Intervention Service Coordinator Lead, and Tracie Southern, EI Director, helped plan and attended the EI Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC) Preschool Expo on Monday April 28. This event was held at the Westmoreland Intermediate Unit and hosted eighteen local Westmoreland County preschools and four community partners - LICC, Early Learning Resource Center, Parent to Parent, and Engage Kidz. The expo gave our local families a place to come to and explore preschool options all within one building. Preschools were arranged by areas within the community, so families were able to go to ones that were within their home locations. The preschools and community partners each had tables set up to display information about what their programs offered, along with staff available to answer any questions the families had. LICC provided each family with a children's book and a tote bag so they could collect the information they wanted at each table. Early intervention information was given to the families from the LICC as well. Thirty-two families attended this event and gained valuable information.



Community Event

WCSI WALKS FOR A CAUSE AT WALK A MILE IN HER SHOES



On Saturday, April 26th, the WCSI Team proudly joined the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event at St. Clair Park, uniting for a powerful cause—raising awareness and taking a stand against gender-based violence. Our team, 25 strong, included dedicated staff, consumers, supportive partners, and even the youngest advocates—our employees' children.

Despite the rainy weather, spirits remained high as participants gathered with purpose and passion. More than 300 individuals participated in the walk, demonstrating incredible community solidarity.

Together, we made our voices heard and our footsteps matter.

The event also featured meaningful, recovery-oriented activities, such as decorating high-heeled shoes and contributing uplifting messages to a communal "Stone Soup," inspired by the classic fable. This symbolic act reflected the heart of the story—that when individuals come together in unity and compassion, they can achieve great things. That same spirit was felt in every step we took together.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated and supported this impactful event. We're already looking forward to an even stronger turnout next year!

COMMUNITY MEMBERS WALKING FOR A CAUSE















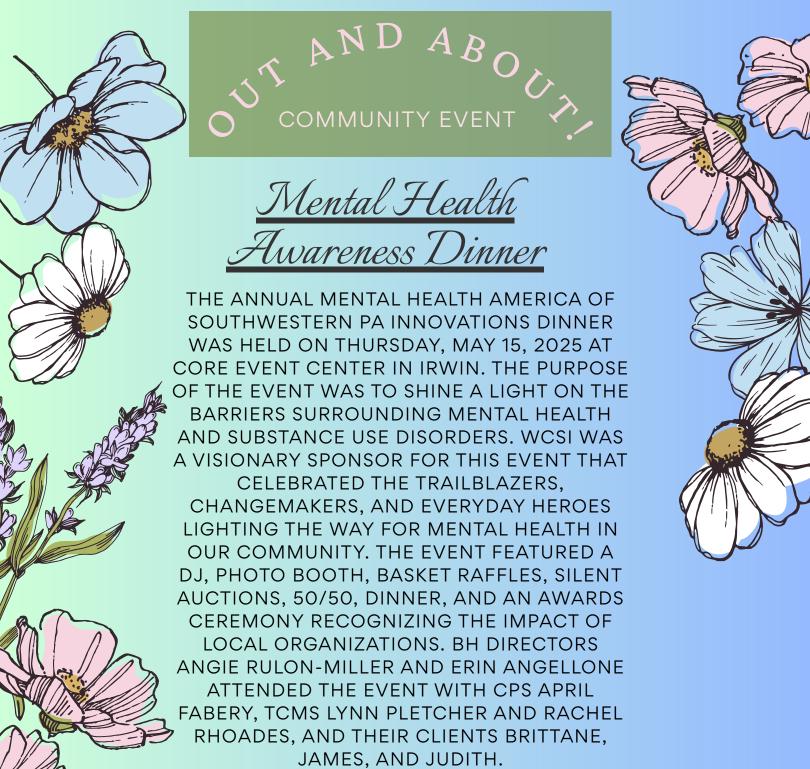
Stay and Play Event

On May 12, 2025, WCSI's Early Intervention Department helped plan and participated in the Westmoreland County EI Local Intervention Coordinating Council (LICC) Stay and Play event at Adams Memorial Library in Latrobe. There was a morning session from 10am-12pm and an afternoon session from 4pm-6pm. Early Intervention staff were present to guide families to play with their children, explaining the developmental skills that children learn from each play activity. WCSI Early Intervention Service Coordinator Leads, Lauren Hussar and Georgiann Beske, were available to complete developmental screenings and take Early Intervention referrals if requested. Westmoreland Community Action offered vision screenings for the children. Beverly's mobile van was also on-site in the morning to offer free formula and diapers to the Latrobe community.

Resource tables were set up in the library to share information from local agencies including LICC, Parent to Parent, Nurture PA, Westmoreland Community Action, 211, Healthy Start, PBS Kids, and the Early Learning Resource Center. Once families gathered all the information available, they were encouraged to "stay and play" in the Children's Library.













OUT AND ABOUT!

WCSI HOSTED EVENT

<u>May is Mental Health Day!</u>

On Friday, May 16th, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., TCMs, Peers, and clients gathered for the May is Mental Health Month celebration at WCSI.

This year's theme, "Spring Forward on the Road to Recovery," resonated throughout the event. Our inspiring Recovery Journey Speaker, Jen Lindquist, graced us with her presence. Attendees engaged in a delightful art activity, crafted their own road maps, and enjoyed an interactive board game. TCMs, Peers, and clients united in sharing their heartfelt stories, weaving a tapestry of connection and support.















OUT AND ABOUT!

Community Event



MISTER ROGER'S FAMILY DAY

WCSI's Early Intervention Department participated in Mister Rogers
Family Days on June 2, 2025, at the Fred Rogers Institute at St.
Vincent College in Latrobe. The Community Open House at the
institute kicked off the full schedule of free family activities
throughout the week from June 2 through June 6. Free trolley tours
were given to families from downtown Latrobe to the Fred Rogers
Institute where there were at least 10 resource tables with kid
friendly activities. At the WCSI EI table, children decorated a cut-out
of Mr. Rogers' sweater while EI staff informed families of
Westmoreland County EI services, provided fliers to those interested,
and shared the First Annual Pause & Play Flier. Participating in the
event were EI SC Leads Danielle O' Neill, Lauren Hussar, and
Georgiann Beske and Supervisor Bo Fry.



Community Event and Job Fair



Wellness Carnival

On June 12th, WCSI representatives-EISC Lead, Danielle O'Neill, TCM Lead, Victoria Grayson, and SCO Case Review Lead, Amy Benson-attended the Carnival Wellness Event organized by Youth MovePa. The event featured numerous vendors offering information about their services and various resources. Participants enjoyed a full day of activities, including crafts, balloon animals, dancing, face painting, games, lunch with "Shatter the Stigma" speakers, a raffle prize drawing, and a magic show. It was a wonderful experience with over 100 participants in total.

Live Casino Job Fair

On June 17th, WCSI representatives
Katie Sapone, EI Training Supervisor,
and HR Recruitment and Outreach
Assistant, Stephany Slaughter,
participated in a job fair at Live
Casino. This event provided an
excellent opportunity to engage
with attendees about the job
openings available at WCSI and the
benefits our organization offers. The
prize wheel served as an enticing
conversation starter, drawing in
event-goers and giving them a
chance to win a gift card.



OUT AND ABOUT!

WCSI HOSTED EVENT

020202020

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH EVENT!

On June 20th, WCSI organized the "May is Mental Health" event for child clients. TCMs joined their clients to engage in enjoyable activities focused on mental health, including board games and WCSI Feud for social interaction. Our very own Lindsey Lauffer served as the Recovery Speaker, sharing her inspiring story with the children and encouraging them to seek help and make use of their support systems. The event was a resounding success, with everyone in attendance













Out and About! Community Event

Human Services Fair

WCSI participated in the DHS Human Services Fair held at Westmoreland County Community College. The event welcomed approximately 300 guests and featured a wide range of vendors representing healthcare providers from across the county. Agencies focused on behavioral health, physical health, and intellectual disabilities were all in attendance. The event provided a valuable opportunity to connect and network with colleagues and community partners. WCSI was represented by Amy Benson, SCO Case Review Lead; Lauren Hussar, EI Admin Lead SC; and Christine Zink-Bensko, Criminal Justice Specialist.





Upcoming Summer Community Events



POLICE - COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 6th, 2025 5PM-8PM

(RAIN OR SHINE)

NORTHMORELAND NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Come out to meet your local Police Officers,
First Responders and neighbors!! National
Night Out aims at building relationships
between First Responders and the
community. Local businesses and
organizations will be present to share
information about community resources.
Come enjoy music, food, and activities for
kids

Location: Northmoreland Park 280 Markle Rd Apollo, PA

Pavilion 8

Live Entertainment with Dystopia

Come and meet your local Police and First Responders

Featuring:
IUP Police
Academy,
Ambulance
Services, and
much more







THURSDAY, AUGUST 7TH, 2025 6:30PM - 9:30PM FREE ADMISSION

Join us in showing appreciation to our local emergency heroes! Learn more about your community's

Learn more about your community's mental health, drug and alcohol resources, local businesses, and more!

For questions call Erin Sidun 724-850-2236

- Food trucks
- Kids Corner
- Bike raffle



- Stage Performances
- Raffle Baskets
- · Firework display



Hempfield Park - 220 Forbes Trail Road Greensburg, PA 15601

MOUNT PLEASANT. * NIGHT OUT *

MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2025

FREE CE CREAM FROM SULFS
FROM SULFS
FROM SULFS

5:30PM--8:00PM FRICK PARK

RAIN OR SHINE





Come out and meet your local Police Officers, Firefighters, EMTs and local businesses! Resource organizations will be onsite too, offering info on free services and programs in the community.













AUGUST 15, 2025 FROM 5-9 PM AT HEMPFIELD PARK, PAVILION D



FREE LIVE MUSIC

FREE KIDS' ACTIVITIES

FREE VENDORS

FREE ENTERTAINMENT

FREE FIREWORKS SHOW

For more information, call (724) 652-5144 or visit www.doninc.org/ada



Bring a dish to

Fun for

Games
Info tables
Raffles
Food!



Hempfield Park Pavilion E

Sunday, August 17, 2025 2–6 pm

We will start eating at 3:30

Entertainment by Sam Specht-Burns

Collecting non-perishable donations for the Westmoreland Food Bank







Jean Slusser galikjames96@gmail.com 724-459-8532

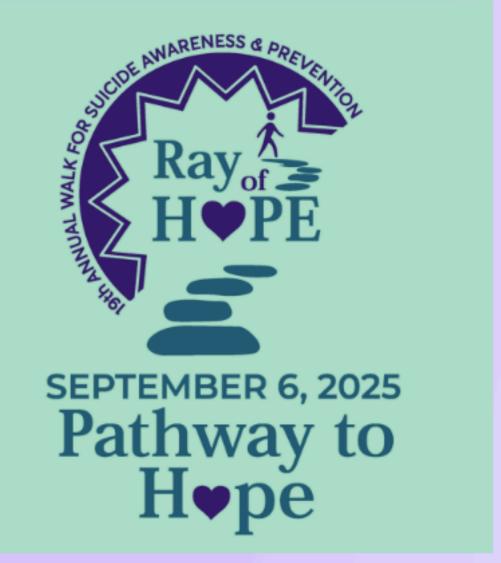
19th Annual Ray of Hope Walk

Westmoreland County
Suicide Awareness & Prevention Task Force

Saturday September 6th, 2025

Twin Lakes Park, Pavilion 7

219 Twin Lakes Rd., Latrobe PA 15650



Survivor Event: 10:00 AM Walk Ceremony: 11:15 AM



Eventbrite Registration:! http://bit.ly/434YaVq



Employee: Cera Hissem Job Title: Criminal Justice Liaison

Q. How long have you been at WCSI?

I have been working at WCSI for a little over a year!

Q. What is your favorite part of your job?

My favorite part of my job is making
connections with lawyers and judges.

Q. What is your favorite thing or favorite memory about WCSI?

My favorite memory at WCSI is my first day in the field on my own!

Q. As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

When I was growing up, I wanted to be a lawyer or a fashion designer – I know, two completely different things!

Q. What was your first job ever?

My first job was working at Hollister.

Q. What lead to you working in this field?

My high school law teacher first got me interested in working in the criminal justice field. As I went to college – my passion for law and helping people continued to grow.

Q. What's the best advice you can give to someone who is just starting out in your field?

Make sure you take care of yourself first!

Q. What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

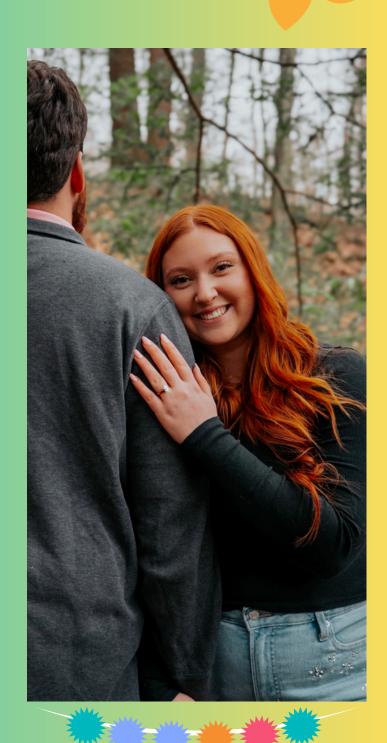
Outside of work, I love going to concerts, spending time with my family, and traveling.

Q. If you could learn to do anything, what would it be?

I would love to learn how to publish a book.

Q. What is your "happy place"?

My happy place is traveling – experiencing new cultures, meeting new people, and gaining new perspectives.



Employee Spotlight August

<u>Employee: Zoe Grasmick</u> <u>Job Title: Adult Targeted Case Manager – Lead</u>

Q. How long have you been at WCSI?

A little over 2.5 years

Q. What is your favorite part of your job?

I love that everyday is different and is never boring! It is also so rewarding to help my clients with their mental health recovery journeys.

Q. What is your favorite thing or favorite memory about WCSI?

My favorite thing about WCSI is the support provided by the supervisors. I have had the pleasure of reporting to several supervisors in my time here and all of them were always there for me when needed and more! Also the PTO is unmatched!

Q. As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

I wanted to be Hannah Montana

Q. What was your first job ever?

Arby's

Q. What lead to you working in this field?

I knew I wanted to do something that would allow me to help others and had an interest in mental health. We help our clients who struggle with mental health in so many different ways so this job is perfect for that.

Q. What's the best advice you can give to someone who is just starting out in your field?

Have an open mind and be open to always learning new things. Although this field comes with its challenges, it is so worth it in the end when you get to see the progress your clients have made with your help.

Q. What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

I enjoy reading, yoga, tending to my houseplants and gardening ©

Q. If you could learn to do anything, what would it be?

I would like to learn sign language

Q. What is your "happy place"?

The beach, duh! If the beach is not an option at the very moment, I love to get cozy with a good book and my pets.





Employee Spotlight September

Employee: Shannen Kaverman Job Title: Supports Coordinator Supervisor

Q. How long have you been at WCSI? I've been at WCSI since January 2020.

Q. What is your favorite part of your job?

I love helping the individuals on my caseload get the supports and resources they need to be successful and live their best life.

Q. What is your favorite thing or favorite memory about WCSI?

My favorite thing about WCSI is the people that I work with and having a supportive team.

Q. As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

A teacher.

Q. What was your first job ever?

My first job was as a softball umpire.

Q. What lead to you working in this field?

I wanted to be able to help others.

Q. What's the best advice you can give to someone who is just starting out in your field?

Have patience and be organized. It's a rewarding field to work in!

Q. What do you enjoy doing outside of work? I enjoy walking my dog, spending time with my family, baking, and going to baseball games.

Q. If you could learn to do anything, what would it be?

I would love to learn sign language.

Q. What is your "happy place"?

The beach.



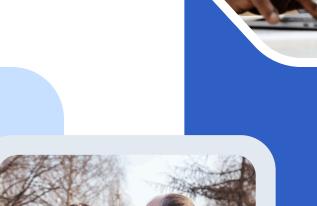






HIRING

Join Our Team



WCSI OFFERS:

- A dynamic environment to effectively utilize your skills.
- Ongoing training and development for maximum potential.
- Opportunities for valuable experience and career growth.
- Competitive salaries and generous benefits.
- Family-oriented employment with flexible work-life balance.



Targeted Case Manager
Supports Coordinator
Student Assistance Program
Liaison

APPLY NOW



Send Your Resume to: WCSICareers@wcsi.org



Phone Number **724-837-1808**



Featured Resources



Mt. Pleasant Church of God

We offer free clothing on Wednesdays from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM for those in need, including men's, women's, and children's items. Donations are always welcome. Note: During Food Pantry week, we are open on Tuesday instead.

Visit us at 934 West Main Street, Mt. Pleasant, PA.

Visit https://www.mpcog.org/outreach-ministries/ for more information.





Looking for Food Resources Click on the links below:

SNAP

PA Navigate

<u>Feeding</u> <u>Pennsylvania</u>

Ending Hunger

<u>Pennsylvania</u> WIC

Do you love someone who is struggling with the use of alcohol or drugs?

YOU ARE NOT ALONE!
GET SUPPORT NOW.



Supporting a loved one through addiction can be emotionally taxing. In our CRAFT program, we provide a supportive space where you can learn to set boundaries, practice self-care, and connect with others who understand.

LOCATIONS

GREENSBURG Tuesdays at 6:00 pm 316 Donohoe Rd. Greensburg, PA 15601

NEW KENSINGTON

Thursdays at 5:00 pm Wesley Family Services 1045 4th Ave. New Kensington, PA 15084

*Virtual Options Available

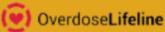
Join us on this journey towards healing and hope. Together, we're stronger.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO REGISTER OR CONTACT

- Jamie Leventry
- **Q** 724-433-1347
- jleventry@westmorelandca.org
 - www.westmorelandca.org









Office Hours:

8:30 AM-4:30 PM Monday through Friday

Main Office:

134 Industrial Park Road Suite 1700 Greensburg, PA 15601 Phone: 724-837-1808

Fax: 724-858-9012

Satellite Locations:

301 7th Street New Kensington, PA 15068 Phone: 724-334-1774

Fax: 724-334-3211

766 East Pittsburgh Street Greensburg, PA 15601 Phone: 724-837-1808

Fax: 724-858-9012

For more information, visit our website at www.wcsi.org

Don't forget to like and follow us on Facebook and Instagram for more information on valuable resources, community events, and the good work we do!



